

### REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-9) for examination on the merits. With regard to the requirement for an election of species, “a hepatitis B virus surface-antigen protein whose hepatocyte recognition site is modified to a basic fibroblast growth factor” is elected. Claims 1-10 read on the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute nonelected subject matter in a further patent application.

The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter is added by their entry. The breadth of the claims is not changed because the amendment of claim 9 is directed to correcting an informality that by its nature (e.g., a typographical error) clarifies and does not limit their original scope.


Under the Commissioner’s Notice of March 26, 1996 (1184 OG 86), Applicants request rejoinder of nonelected claim 10 upon an indication that an elected product claim is allowable.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Gary R. Tanigawa  
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100